

BRIDGEPORT, August 7, 1854.

## Working of the Maine Law—Popular Excitement—Probable Repudiation of the Law—Visit of the Governor—His Reception—A Procession—Local Politics.

Having lately been the witness of considerable excitement in this usually quiet town, and that excitement being the sequence of the advent of a law enacted at the last session of the General Assembly of Connecticut, I presume to address you these lines, trusting they will prove interesting to your numerous readers. It is, I suppose, generally known that the last May session of the Connecticut Legislature enacted a law for the suppression of intemperance, and indeed the law is calculated to effectually secure the purpose it was designed for. It is so rigid and explicit in its provisions that no possible chance is left for evading its requirements. In fact, care must be used that in our homes or in the social circles convened and delighted in, as we journey through life, the bounds prescribed are not overstepped.

The law was in effect on the 1st day of August, and as the day drew near speculation was rife and curiosity excited to behold the consequences of its operation. One of the articles of said law provides, that the select men of each town shall appoint agents, and appropriate a sum of money from the town treasury, to be used by said agents on account of the town, for the purchase and sale of liquors for medicinal and other purposes, unless otherwise directed by the town. Still agents to receive a salary of \$125 per year for their services. Whether the propriety of such agencies are questioned, or the rigid exactness of the law has caused a reaction in the minds of the people, I do not know; but certain it is that all the populous towns of this State have voted that the public monies should not be appropriated for the purpose designated by law. It amounts to a palpable repudiation of the law, and although Connecticut, by her last Legislature, adopted the law by a decided majority, it is a matter of conjecture whether the people are in reality in favor of the law or not; New Haven leading the van in repudiating, and Hartford quickly following.

Bridgeport, next in order, became the centre of observation: being the third town in greatness in the State, the pent-up outlet of a vast interior, having two railroads traversing the State from north to south, and terminating here; besides, as you are aware, being under the direct influence of the great apostle of temperance and prince of showmen, who resides here, the result was anxiously looked for by the public throughout the State. We were, during last week, favored with a visit from our venerable Governor, the Hon. Henry Dutton; but whether he came here to aid the cause of temperance or upon other business, I am unable to say. The last week, during his sojourn among us he was the recipient of a very popular and to him unpleasant serenade, and also being burnt in effigy, a mode of proceeding not commendable under the circumstances, but apparently not objected to generally. But, however, to what purpose the visit of the Governor was made, it resulted in no good to the cause of temperance. The meeting for the decision of the matter was held on Saturday in the Common Council room, and was one of the most exciting affairs I ever witnessed. The temperance men made a bold effort, but it was no go. An adjournment was made to the basement of our new courthouse in order to have more room, and the adoption of a set of resolutions to the following effect took place (the temperance men making no effort) to wit:—

That no money should be appropriated from the public treasury for the purpose, and that all money, if any, appropriated before this date, be returned to the treasury forthwith. An adjournment (without day) then took place. A very large and imposing procession took place in the evening; in fact the largest I ever witnessed in this place. After marching through the principal streets with drums beating and banners flying, they halted on the green, and forming a circle, burnt the effigy of Thomas H. Oakley, our representative in their midst. Again forming in line, three cheers were given for the worthy Mayor, and the procession marched into Wordin's large hall in this place, where a meeting was organized by the appointment of Capt. S. D. Baldwin as chairman. The procession in passing through the streets was quiet and orderly, not the slightest disposition to disturbance being evident. Speeches were delivered at the meeting, denunciatory of the prohibitory law.

Premont among the speakers was William Pinkerman, Esq., of this city, who commented severely upon the law. He stated, during his speech, and wished it publicly known, that Mr. Oakley, when nominated for the office he now holds, publicly declared that if elected, should any matters arise in the Assembly concerning a liquor law, he would use his influence to have the subject referred to the people for adjustment, instead of which, he has attempted to pass the law in its present form, thereby violating his trust and proving false to his constituents.

The meeting then adjourned, pledged to repeat. Thus ended the day so full of excitement, and with it I fear a hearty or even probable acquiescence to the law. There is no doubt that many and repeated violations will take place, a few of which will be brought before the proper tribunals for adjustment. A few such cases, under the eyes of the people, and on account of its rigidity, now will by the time of another election become unbearable in view of the determined opposition so openly manifested throughout the State. I see no reason to doubt that a different set of men will grace our next legislative Assembly. So far as the probability of a suppression of drinking is concerned, I doubt the issue in view of the immense quantities of liquor put by for private use, and the easy facilities for obtaining it from New York. Time will prove.

## Our Boston Correspondence.

BOSTON, August 10, 1854.

## The Whig State Convention—Its Probable Size—The Position of the Whigs—Change in Their Condition—Their Local Defeats by the Know Nothings—Reported Alliance Between the Two Parties—Whig Endeavors to Catch the Abolitionists—Breaking Up of the Whigs in Their Strongholds—Their Legislative Strength—Probable Legislative Changes—The Whigs yet Feared by Some, &amp;c.

The Whig State Convention will meet here on Wednesday next, August 16, in Faneuil Hall, and, according to the basis of representation that has been adopted, it ought to consist of 2,190 delegates. It will be large, undoubtedly, but not quite so large as that. The Whigs have not had a convention here, that I can call to mind, since 1846. As this convention's action will be the real commencement of a political campaign destined in some respects to be one of great importance, and illustrated by some singular events, it may be as well to describe the present condition of the whig party, which is entitled to precedence, on the score of its being in power, and the first to act. As to any other claims to consideration that it may have, I will speak of them when I shall find them established. As the other parties hold their conventions, I will endeavor to give accounts of their chances and prospects. The democratic party is considered by many to be extinct. Time and the event must decide how far Gen. Cushing has succeeded in gratifying the wishes of his old whig friends, in "crushing out" the spirit of the democracy.

When the whigs returned to power last January, they seemed to be in the occupation of an invulnerable position. The coalition had been

destroyed, and though it might possibly be kept alive in some particular localities as a State organization, it was in a hopeless condition. Though democrats had shown themselves sufficiently abject of spirit to be intimidated by the threats of a renegade whig, and as their number was large enough to affect the action of the party, it was idle to look for anything at the hands of that party. The Irish Catholics had gone over to the whigs in a body on the question of making a new constitution, and as most of their number had been democrats, it did seem as if there was to be nothing left of which the whigs could be afraid. About one-seventh of the democratic party belonged to the hunker branch, and preferred whig success to that of the coalition, though liking the national administration as little as it is liked by the New York hards. Finally, the Adams and Palfrey portion of the free soilers had acted with the whigs, and showed a decided inclination to go back into the whig organization. The whigs had three-fourths of the Senate, and 90 majority in the House. They elected their candidates for State officers in the Legislature, and set the democratic in motion. Everything looked first rate for them, and they acted as if they believed they had taken a bond of fate and fortune.

But as has been the case with our political scenery for years past, there quickly came an alteration over the state of affairs. The standing order of our stage has been entered Snob, and exit Aldibronchophosphorion, the party that in always coming by the worst, and fortune taking a sort of malicious spite in hitting the successful with hard blows. The whigs had hardly been seated in office when the Know Nothings began to make themselves unpleasantly prominent. Several whig candidates at elections for municipal officers were badly beaten, and it was seen with dismay that this mysterious order was strongest in the very places where whigery had been considered as powerful as the oak. As time rolled on, the order became recognized something to be dreaded, though what its exact intentions are no one can positively say. Among the speculations of the day is one to the effect that the whigs now expect to turn the order to account, and restore their fortunes through its aid. It is said that several eminent whigs have joined it, for the purpose of controlling it and making use of its admirable organization to keep that *anatomie vivante*, the whig party of Massachusetts, above danger. They are represented to be among the cleverest political managers in their party. Henry J. Gardner is one of the number whose names I have heard mentioned as being in this plot. If he has joined the order it is only for the purpose of aiding the whigs. He is a whig, and cannot be anything else. Whether he was created for the whig party, or the whig party for him, I do not know, but they fit each other admirably. Mr. Gardner has served his party well in the city government, in the Legislature, and in the constitutional convention. If he has become a Know Nothing, it is because he wants something done which he cannot accomplish without the aid of the mysterious and mystic order, which our learned whigs compare with the *Vehmische Genihte*, that famous secret tribunal of the "red soil" which was as terrible to the hunkers and flunkies of four hundred years ago as "free soil" has been to the democrats of our own day.

To return to the consideration of the condition of the whigs, the coming up of the Nebraska discussion gave them hopes that almost balanced the fears they felt from the garote of the new party. They had great faith in the gullibility of the people of Massachusetts on the subject of slavery, having worked that mine for several years previous to 1849 with amazing success. They acted as if they believed that heaven had inspired Mr. Douglas to bring about the repeal of the compromise of 1820 for their benefit. They have for months been seeking to get the free soilers to join them, not as a body, but as individuals, and have been loud in their declarations of what it will become the duty of the North to do, in case the South shall do something or other—no one knows exactly what. Thus they have been very successful. All kinds of "fusions," save the melting down of democrats and whigs into Know Nothings, having failed in Massachusetts. A portion of the free soil leaders would gladly have a whig nominated for Governor by the "republican" convention of September 7th, if they thought the whigs would support him; but the whigs are not sunk so low as to allow others to make their nominations for them.

Gen. Cushing, it is believed, will be nominated for re-election by his party. He will not come within 25,000 votes of being chosen, unless he should get support out of his party. The only class he can look to for such support are the Catholics that have not acted with the whigs heretofore; and their support would injure him. His speech at an Irish dinner, against his own countrymen, and in favor of Catholicism, however, entitles him to the Catholic vote, and he will get that, and much more than they do him. Last year the popular majority against him was, in round numbers, 10,000; while the majority against the new constitution, as officially given, was 4,928. Taking the latter as the majority against the whigs in the State, in order to make our calculations as favorable to them as possible, let us see how they are likely to fare in the legislative elections, on the supposition that the Know Nothing strength is not vastly overrated, and is up to carrying the Legislature, that they must find their hopes of success, if hopes they have. Last year they had ninety majority in the House, obtained in the following places. I have given the majority against the new constitution, which is much more favorable to them than would be any other course:—

No. of Reps. Whig maj.	
Boston	5,780
Salem	800
Newburyport	3
Lowell	10
New Bedford	4
Cambridge	127
Lawrence	4
Roxbury	6
Nantucket	3
Chicopee	121
Falmouth	3
Pittsfield	2
Total	91

The Know Nothings have lodges in all the above named places, and in nine of them they have been victorious already. They say they have received thousands of votes in Boston, a number large enough to elect their own nominees; but they will be elected by the members of other parties in all those places where the other parties have no hopes of success. But as a condition of such aid, they must show no favor to the whigs. Should the Know Nothings, however, simply succeed in defeating the whig candidates in the towns mentioned, it would suffice to upset the whig majority of this year in the House, not to mention that it would defeat seven whig Senators—six in Suffolk, and one in Hancock. There would also be Senators and Representatives of anti-whig politics defeated in some of the towns, but more than would be defeated of whigs in such towns as Waltham, Danvers, Dorchester, Dedham, Newton, Wrentham, Lexington, North Chelsea, and many other places, electing in all not less than fifty representatives, all whigs in the present Legislature, but where the Know Nothings are now strong, and where the whigs cannot look for a repetition of that aid from the hunkers and the rummies which had considerable to do with their success at the elections of 1853. As to the Senate, the whigs do not expect to carry their men out of the Suffolk, Barnstable, Hampshire, and Nantucket and Dukes districts. The Suffolk whig majority of last year is above given, only that there is far larger than what the senatorial candidates received. In Barnstable it was 356; in Nantucket 237; in Hampshire 227. It would surprise me none to see the Know Nothings overcome all these majorities. They certainly have no right to speak of their strength if they cannot do as much as that. Even in Suffolk they would be able to defeat the whigs, if only half as strong as they represent themselves to be, provided the democrats and free soilers should do almost as well as they did in 1853, and they cannot do much worse, unless they have joined the new party, which would, however, only be a change of position, being in name, but not in reality. They would be opposed to the whigs, the

same as before; and that would be the main thing, and the only one worth considering. It is probable, too, that many men of anti-whig politics, who have seldom voted, because of the hopelessness, in most cases, of beating the old rulers of the State, will this year come out, and so increase the chances of a whig overthrow. The whigs have been a mean and arrogant in their prosperity, that everybody out of their own ranks delights in giving them a kick when they are going down, so that they may reach the foot of the hill the sooner, and with a sufficient vehemence to be dashed to pieces. The whigs are fond of laughing at our democrats, because of the latter's utterly forlorn condition. There is, certainly, nothing to be envied in the position of the democracy; but that the whigs should make sport of them on that account, is a little too bad. Their affectation of superiority in this case, reminds one of a caricature, or comic sketch rather, than of a very popular and successful man. It represented an execution scene, two men standing on the platform, with ropes around their necks, while an immense crowd was gathered to see the fun, amid which half a dozen mad bulls were plunging, pitching, tossing, goring and tramping, as is the manner of those amiable beasts whenever anything has gone wrong with them. The two criminals bend over from their prominent position, as far as the ropes will allow them, enjoying the scene greatly, while one remarks to the other, "I say, Jim, how d—d lucky that we're up here!" I think the whigs have just about as much reason for rejoicing that the gentlemen with the hempen cordons had on the score of the safety of their position. If the democracy are scattering in all directions, their very movements indicate that they have life, and are at liberty to preserve it—if they can; while the whigs are tramped up, and ready for hanging, and appear to be in a fair way to "flash their ivories" in some political surgeon's hall, if science should deem them worthy of the trouble of morbid anatomy.

When people were fretting themselves about the last great comet's homicidal intentions towards the world, Arago wrote a book to show that they were unnecessarily alarmed. The comet might strike the earth, and destroy it, but the chance that it would do so, according to him, was about as great as would be that of drawing a black ball from an urn in which it had been placed with a million of white ones. The black ball might be drawn, but it was a million to one that it would not be. So with our whigs—they may keep their places, but the odds are terribly against them. Their cat-like qualities include a wonderful tenacity of life. Their general feline nature, their rare capacity at crawling through the smallest kind of hole, in the "kind of way" their skill at the abolition dodge, their social consequence, and their money—all these things make some people believe that whigery, though apparently doomed will not this year die; that a reprieve will come at the last moment, as one did in '53; that the robed snake will again start up into a very respectable serpent; and that Massachusetts whigery will make those who are now rejoicing in its extinction, feel that speedy death, once more feel the weight of the words—

Impertii. Portentum umbrum. ALGOMA.

## Our Amherst Correspondence.

AMHERST, Mass., Thursday, August 10, 1854.

## Commencement Week—The First Day—Baccalaureate Sermon and Prizes—Torchlight Procession—Professor Felton's Address—Conferring the Degrees, and Concluding Exercises.

This is commencement day at Amherst, and all is bustle and activity. Strangers thronging the streets and crowding the public houses; the mutual greetings of graduates and friends of the college, who have once more gathered around the scenes of former labor and pastime; the vehicles of the country people standing in every direction, and the horses munching hay from the hinder part of the wagons, and the little picaune stalls for ginger beer, oysters and peanuts dotting the lawn in every direction, all present a very counterpart of the "Vanity Fair," and denote that some unusual event is afoot. And so it is. Commencement here is quite a different affair from that which takes place in our cities; and the farmers, one day in the year besides Sunday, luxuriate in their best suits of "home-spun."

The first of this week's exercises was the baccalaureate sermon, delivered on Sunday by President Hitchcock. On Tuesday evening the prize dissertation was read, and the sophomore classes, of which I sent you a brief note yesterday. The prizes, of \$30, were conferred by a gentleman who prefers to remain incognito, and were divided into sums of \$5 and \$10, allotted to the successful competitors of each class respectively, viz:—J. M. Lane, of South Market, N. H., and T. Graves, of Hatfield, from the sophomore class; J. L. Fordham, of Southampton, L. I., and G. H. Beckwith, of Plattsburg, N. Y., from the freshman class. The exercises passed off pleasantly, and all the speakers did themselves much credit. Music by the Northampton Band.

Same evening, a grand torch-light procession by the graduating class, after which followed a supper, speeches and toasts. The Northampton Band was in attendance, and everything passed off to the general satisfaction.

Wednesday, at 8 o'clock A. M., a meeting of the alumni, adjourned till Thursday, at 8 o'clock A. M., to be held in the hall of the sophomore classes, of which I sent you a brief note yesterday. The prizes, of \$30, were conferred by a gentleman who prefers to remain incognito, and were divided into sums of \$5 and \$10, allotted to the successful competitors of each class respectively, viz:—J. M. Lane, of South Market, N. H., and T. Graves, of Hatfield, from the sophomore class; J. L. Fordham, of Southampton, L. I., and G. H. Beckwith, of Plattsburg, N. Y., from the freshman class. The exercises passed off pleasantly, and all the speakers did themselves much credit. Music by the Northampton Band.

At the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, same day, an address before the Phi Beta Kappa Society, by Prof. C. C. Felton, of Cambridge. Subject—"A Picture of the Past, the Agora of Socrates, the Bema of Demosthenes, and the Areopagus of St. Paul." The orator entered into details of the past and present condition of Greece—her schools and seminaries of learning—her great men, orators, statesmen, poets, and the places they used to traverse in their daily walks, the marketplace, (agora) the stage (bema), and the colossal temples from which they poured forth their eloquence to the assembled multitudes. He adverted to the magnificent ruins of the Acropolis, and the great city of Athens—her stained and crumbling walls, pillars and statues, and the influence of her civilization on the world, and mentioned this circumstance as a singular fact, that while he wandered yet among the ruins and ruins of the past, wrapped in contemplation and study, there he received his invitation to deliver his oration before the Phi Beta Kappa, and there he chose his subject. He adverted also in a very happy manner, to the celebrated missionary, Jonas King. After giving a short sketch of the present flourishing condition of Athens and her schools, he entered more particularly into the main subject of his address, first the Agora of Socrates, in which he portrayed the character of that great philosopher and statesman in a novel and highly entertaining manner, and pointed out the many peculiarities of his life, and intimated that whereas his "character was not wholly without excuse," still there lay deep seated under the palpable evil, the great principle of natural religion. Demosthenes, he extolled to the highest heights of rhetorical eloquence, and speaking of the high principles of true liberty and patriotism, which he inculcated in the minds of the throngs assembled to hear him, he likened him to our own great statesman, Daniel Webster, and styled him the Demosthenes of modern times; and presented a most beautiful eulogy on him "who now sleeps by the ocean" at Marshfield. From the bema of Athens was patriotism addressed to all free nations, but although not like the United States in constitution, laws and principles of government, still it wanted that union of States which the Union strengthened, and the lack of which has been the cause of the downfall of the other. But our first attention is due to our own country; let us hold to the constitution and profit by these sad examples of the past. However, time overrules the works and designs of man. The character of St. Paul he presented in a new and interesting aspect, and notwithstanding it has been proclaimed

from rostrum and pulpit, still he found new attractions in the great spiritual teacher who stood on "Mars Hill" and proclaimed to the people the infinite entity of the "Unknown God."

It was a happy address, and showed unusual power of thought and depth of study. The Phi Beta Kappa has been established but one year in this college.

At 8 o'clock, same evening, an address before the Society of Inquiry was delivered by the Rev. A. W. McClure, of Jersey City. Subject—Promulgation of Christianity in the Dark Ages. The object of this society is the extension of the missionary labor; and all members of it join with the intention of becoming ministers of missions.

The address before the literary societies did not come off, in consequence of the absence of the appointees—Dr. Humphrey, of Louisville, Ky., and Judge Spafford, of La. substitute.

Thursday, August 11, M. A. M. An adjourned meeting of the alumni. Various business was transacted, and among other things, stringent efforts were made to adopt some measure, for the extension of the college library, and it was proposed at once to raise a permanent fund (the interest to be applied to the purchase of books). Dr. G. C. Sheppard, of Boston, tendered a donation of \$1,000, on condition that \$10,000 should be raised in three years, and \$500 if \$5,000 should be raised in the same time.

Dr. Wm. A. Stearns, of Cambridgeport, was elected President, in place of Pres. Edward Hitchcock, resigned. Though long expected, his resignation is much regretted by all; but still health renders this step necessary. President Hitchcock has been, during his official connection with the college, one of its chief pillars and supports, and has contributed vastly to the propagation of the highest branches of science and literature. Indeed, the mineralogical department owes everything, almost, to his unwearied and scientific researches, by which it has attained that pre-eminence which it now occupies among our collegiate institutions. He has held the office of President since the resignation of Dr. Humphrey—a period of seven years.

At 9 o'clock this morning, the procession was formed in front of the college chapel and moved to the village church, (where the exercises were to be held) in the following order:—First, the Band; next the undergraduates, in the order of their classes, the freshmen taking the lead; then the Sheriff of the county, the President and corporation, the faculty and officers of the college; and lastly, the alumni, in the order of their classes, the oldest classes taking precedence.

The exercises were opened by music from the orchestra, followed by an appropriate prayer from the President, which was listened to by as large and select an audience as ever thronged our city fairs. Strangers from abroad, and large numbers from various cities far and near, were present, many of whom were personally known to the writer. The next in order after the prayer was the Salutatory Oration, in Latin, by Dr. J. M. Lane, of South Market, Me. He addressed in order the President and Trustees, Instructors and Professors of this and other colleges, his classmates and the undergraduates, the alumni, and last but not least, the helms and belles of the town and those of Mount Holyoke Seminary. There was a spout vein of humor through the whole address, and the ladies and others, if they did not all understand the language, seemed heartily to appreciate it, and to enjoy the spirit of the speaker. The production was characterized by a deal of pleasant and good-natured sarcasm, and the author did neither spare nor pardon those who happened to have come under the ban of his all-powerful pen. It was a happy effort, and did credit to the able author.

The valedictory address was listened to with especial interest and attention, as is most generally the case on such occasions, and being delivered by a man of the highest talent, it might do credit to a more experienced and older mind. The valedictorian was William W. Fowler, of Amherst, and son of Prof. Fowler, for some time an instructor in this college. The essayist chose for his subject "Theoretical and Practical Statesmanship," in which, contrasting theory and practice in the building and ruling of States, he endeavored to show that theoretical statesmanship errs by viewing government in too abstract a light, by neglecting the myriad relations which exist between the State and the individual. Practical statesmanship, on the contrary, views government as related to the complexity of society, the intricacy of man's nature and his numerous wants, and thus blends conservatism and reform in government by fulfilling duty to the whole country, without being influenced merely by sectional or party interest.

After the delivery of the oration, he addressed his remarks first to the President, with a warm-hearted sentiment which served to show the true relation existing here between the student and the instructor, and that there exists that affection, which in after life will cause the participants to look back with pleasure upon the scenes of college life. Then followed a word to the trustees, the professors and the good people of Amherst, reminding them of the duty of the college, and in which he recalled fond memories, and pointed forward to the dim future, where was faintly looming up through the mist, the faint outlines of eminence and distinction, and wealth and happiness in store for their ambitious minds, now just looking from the little window of their ark out upon the boundless waste around them, to discover, if possible, some little spot on which to rest their foot. It was a feeling address, and thus the exercises closed. It was the last of the college year.

The candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and who received their diplomas, are:—George Bowditch, of Champlain, N. Y.; Lucius Helen Bugbee, of Claremont, N. Y.; Averill Burton Canfield, of South Britain, Ct.; James Franklin Clarke, of Amherst; Edwin Cooley, of Sunderland; Alexander B. Cragg, of Berkeley; Edward Augustus Crane, of Berkeley; Appleton Dudson, of Marlboro; Edwin Dimock, of North Mansfield, Ct.; Henry Clinton Edmons, of Hallowell, Me.; Frank H. Fox, of Southbury, Conn.; James Bradley Ford, of Lyme, Ct.; William Worthington Fowler, of Amherst; Samuel M. Friesen, of C. Imilia, Tenn.; Emma Mithra Glass, of Lima, N. Y.; John Hudson Goodough, of Sudbury; Joseph Hartzel, of Deerfield, O.; Mian Hubbard Hitchcock, of North Bergen, N. Y.; Charles Hovey Hollaway, of Philadelphia, Penn.; Franklin Hubbard, of Sunderland; Charles Augustus Kitchin, of Ipswich; John Calvin Kimball, of Ipswich; Albert Matthews, of Leverett; Albert Winfield Mayes, of Ashwood, Tenn.; William Meritt, of Rome, N. Y.; Ellis Moseley, of Fairport, N. Y.; Alpheus Sanford Smith, of South Dennis, Mass.; Edward Burns Olcott, of New Orleans, La.; George Partridge, of Randolph, Vt.; Edmund Morris Pease, of Granby; John Winn Underhill, of Olean, N. Y.; Charles Parks Bagge, of Hinsdale, N. H.; Ujeli Whitney Small, of Cornwall, Me.; Horace Payson Smith, of Salem; Silas Milton Smith, of Nunda, N. Y.; John W. Smith, of Ipswich; Charles Augustus Wilcox, of Ipswich.

The Master's oration for this occasion was delivered by Mr. John E. Sandford, of the class of 1851. Subject—Thomas Jefferson. The address was of greater length than customary, and occupied nearly forty minutes in the delivery. The speaker reviewed the life and character of the great statesman with a careful and critical eye, and speaking of his connection, (in his religious views) with the notorious Thomas Paine, he thought hardly enough of liberality, and was surprised in regard to him, inasmuch as he believed that there lay beneath the surface the highest moral qualities. If not of sound religious principle, he thought it would be well if this country had more imitators of his character than it now has, and that the States have but little to boast of in this respect. He drew a comparison between Washington and Jefferson and their respective merits; and though there did exist a strong similarity in their two characters—if Jefferson was as great a statesman, Washington possessed more genuine religious principles.

The degrees of A. M. and D. D., were conferred upon the following gentlemen:—Honorary A. M.—Franklin Crosby, of Lowell, B. A. M.—in course—William Chauncey, Esq.; Henry E. Davis, Esq., New York.

Degrees of D. D.—Rev. A. W. Maclure, Jersey City; Rev. Payson Williston, East Hampton; Prof. Samuel Hopkins, Auburn, N. Y.

## KANSAS AND NEBRASKA.

## Meeting of Settlers at Wabashaw Creek.

(Correspondence of the Philadelphia Ledger.)

WESTPORT, Aug. 1, 1854.

DEAR SIR—Agreeable to a call that was heralded through the Territory some weeks since, a meeting of abolition settlers convened at Back Bone Ridge near the Wabashaw creek, for the purpose of establishing a branch lodge of that humane institution, that the most experienced political diplomatists have at last denominated "the Parker conspiracy."

The attendance was small but mighty, imposing, but not invincible. The whole number, when counted in round numbers, amounted to thirty-one—hardly the complement of "the guard;" and of this number, I may venture, that a majority were of the hardy pioneer descent—men honest and honorable in their intentions, if not recommended by the same degree of self-accredited humanity claimed by the minority.

The meeting was organized by the appointment of a Mr. Wakefield as president, and a Mr. Woods, of Washington Era notoriety, as secretary. Several speeches were then made, upon the importance of their character, from all appearance it seemed judicious not to use very combustible material on the occasion, less perchance an explosion might take place, and accidentally kill Mr. Woods, who was the most efficient character. And thus the only surviving heirs of the deceased patriotism, philanthropy and humanity be left as pallbearers to perform the last sad rites of burial at the grave of a dead abolitionist, "with his martial cloak and his sword," and then arose a committee, who were then appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the purposes and sentiments of the meeting. One short hour having elapsed, the time allowed as an intermission for the committee, for concentrating in a few words all the tender sentiment, noble intensity and high resolves of men who felt that all the great interests of colored humanity were in their hands; the report is at length announced, and the great work of the embryo, only waits the impulse of acclamation.

After a long preamble of "whereas" and "and whereas," and whereas, we are credibly informed, that no appreciations of the startling word of the "darkie" had yet been announced. The clear, full voice of the secretary was at last heard resounding with the solemn accent of those determined and convincing words, "therefore Resolved."

Unavoidable circumstances prevented me from being present at this convocation; and although I have spared no pains, I have been unable to get anything like a verbatim report of these "results." In all of them, however, the most guarded expressions were used, upon all questions bearing upon the subject of slavery, or the rights of settlers to bring slave property into the Territory.

The only one that could possibly be construed as involving any sparring of abolition sentiment, read something in this wise:—Resolved, furthermore, "That God Almighty, in his bounty, has bestowed upon all mankind lands sufficient to furnish habitations and sustenance for all men, whether black or white; and as grateful recipients of this bounty, we will use every endeavor to protect all men in the enjoyment of this boon of Providence."

This was not the precise language, but so far as I can learn, it contains the sentiment of the only resolve at all intimated with the vaunted immunity of expediency of this higher order of negro philanthropy.

During the excitement incident to the adoption of the resolves, when the christening resolution was read, some dissatisfaction was manifested, and a motion was made to strike out "The Actual Settler's Association," and insert the "Wabashaw Association."

While this motion was pending, a motion to adjourn was made and carried by the casting vote of the Chair. Previous, however, to the grand finale, it was resolved, "that a copy of the proceedings of the meeting be forwarded to the Hon. Thos. H. Benton, of Mo., and Senator Chase, of Ohio, to be endorsed and published in such journals of the country, as through their influence might impart character to the meeting."

E Pluribus Unum. A star fell from heaven, and the convention adjourned, "all the while congratulating, and reading something of the kind." I should have mentioned that, before the meeting convened, it was reported that delegates would be appointed to a mass meeting, to be held at a place called the Big Timber, on the 15th of August. As the meeting failed to meet at the hour of adjournment, this honor was not conferred upon many anxious aspirants.

It was, indeed, unfortunate that any difficulty should occur among men engaged in such a noble work, especially so serious as to prevent them from attending to the sacred ties of baptism.

One would have supposed that the sprinkling would have been the first ceremony, as its sanctity would have doubtless inspired them with a solemn and reverential awe. But here, as elsewhere, we may learn that prudence is not always the frontier of discretion. A step in the dark is always uncertain, and the next may be a fall. May they profit by this sad experience, and learn a lesson that should have been credited to their earlier manhood—that the true American builds the fabric of his policy upon national principles, while the fanatic builds upon some popular sectional discussion. The rock will stand, but the unstable sands are ever shifting.

As a codicil to these remarks, allow me to furnish you with a local item, of some importance in these trying times:—

The abolition cause has been running so high at Weston, that the authorities have ordered all free gentlemen of color to leave the town.

Since the issue of this ordinance, a Mr. — has been detected in selling papers to these unfortunate men, allowing them for ten dollars to pass unmolested to the Territory. As a further mark of his philanthropy, he has been detected in investigating some several bondmen to leave without papers. On being arrested he denied the charge, and the authorities have ordered all free gentlemen of color to leave the town.

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(Correspondence of the Philadelphia Ledger.)

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., July 27, 1854.

## Nebraska and Kansas—Resources and Prospects.

Having just returned to this place from an extended tour through a large portion of the territories of Nebraska and Kansas, I am enabled to select a large mass of facts in reference to the soil, climate and agricultural qualities of the country, as well as some speculations in relation to their probable future political prospects which would, no doubt, prove interesting to your readers.

Of the two territories I greatly prefer Kansas, and it is, as a general thing, better supplied with water and timber, and the soil is equally good. The winters, also, are much milder; still there are some thousands of acres of land in Nebraska which far excel anything you ever saw in Pennsylvania. This seems to be the general opinion, and the tide of emigration, which tended to Nebraska, has now changed to Kansas. Only a few days since a large party (some hundreds) of Germans, who had started for Nebraska, left the steamboat at the mouth of the Kansas and entered the Kansas instead of Nebraska, as they first contemplated. All the emigration from Iowa and Missouri is now to Nebraska. The tide of the Indians will expire in November, and there are thousands of whites who will then cross the river here and at points above. At a ferry some miles above here, the ferryman informed me that he had daily averaged forty families across his ferry. This may seem incredible, but it is true.

At least 3,000 persons from Iowa alone are believed to have crossed the river for Kansas between this place and Westport; and at this moment there are eight or ten thousand white persons in the Territory.

In twelve months there will be a sufficient number of persons there to form a State government; and, mark my prediction, at the next session of Congress, Kansas will be knocking for admission into the Union as a sovereign State.

And now, gentlemen, you may ask, how about slavery? Will their State constitutions recognize slavery? I answer, no. On the

great Nemahaw river, there is a large settlement of Missourians; I was among them for three weeks; knowing the deep interest felt through the country on this question, I have made it a special subject of inquiry, and I assure you that I have never seen one person who is in favor of slavery, who is now residing in either Kansas or Nebraska. Even the Missourians give it up as a settled matter. The soil, the climate, the nature of the productions of the country are all against it. While, therefore, Wilmot provisions and Nebraska bills may furnish to members of Congress a fruitful theme for speeches to Buncombe, a "higher law" than any law of Congress has decided the matter. Slavery can never flourish there. Of this I am as well convinced as I could be of any ascertained fact.

You may also desire to know which parts of the country are most to be preferred for settlers. This is a hard question to answer. In Kansas anywhere on the Vermilion or Blue River countries, or anywhere between the latter and Great Nemahaw river, a settler can hardly go wrong. I prefer the last named place, and there I shall most probably end my days.

In Nebraska there is much of the upland land than in Kansas, but as I said before, there are large bodies of splendid land in all parts of the Territory.

I may also mention another advantage which Kansas has over Nebraska. All emigrants for California or Oregon leave the steamboat at the mouth of the Kansas, and start from Westport, five miles from the mouth of that river. This is Col. Fremont's starting place. They follow up the Kansas a long distance, and then cross over to the Platte or Nebraska; but do not reach that river till they advance some hundreds of miles